



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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***GOVERNOR URGES HOMEOWNERS: USE STATE HELP
TO PREVENT FORECLOSURES***

PHOENIX – Governor Janet Napolitano today reminded Arizonans that existing resources are available to help them manage in these tough economic times.

“Mortgages, housing and credit continue to be enormous issues facing Arizonans,” said Governor Napolitano. “We must continue to get the word out to those in need that there are resources available to help them manage in these tough times.”

Throughout the past year, the Governor and the state of Arizona have taken concrete actions to address the mortgage crisis and keep Arizonans in their homes:

- *November 2007:* Expanding Eviction and Foreclosure Prevention funding from \$2.75 million to \$4.2 million. This year alone, more than 5,000 Arizonans have received help through this funding with mortgage payments, utility payments and more.
- *March 2008:* Expanding Arizona’s already active participation in the National Foreclosure Mitigation Program by training additional counselors and supporting additional outreach efforts in highly-impacted areas throughout the state.
- *May 2008:* Instituting a 24/7 help line (**877-448-1211**) to connect homeowners with counselors. To date, more than 5,500 Arizonans have used this helpline.
- *May 2008:* Convening lenders to secure their agreement to increase outreach even further and to more aggressively enter into loan modifications or “workouts” with clients in trouble.
- *June 2008:* Launching a statewide awareness campaign and one-stop shopping to directly link Arizonans with assistance in four major economic areas: mortgage counseling; job hunting and training assistance; family stress; and help with covering basic family bills. The brochure, called “Feeling the Economic Crunch” is easy to link to on the Governor’s Web site (www.azgovernor.gov) and on www.AZ211.gov.
- *June and July 2008:* Sending letters to Congress and to President Bush to ask for their support for foreclosure prevention and neighborhood stabilization.
- *September 2008:* Launching *Housing Arizona*, a \$13.6 million, multi-faceted approach to help homeowners and neighborhoods facing mounting foreclosure and for families and individuals facing homelessness.

Also in September, Arizona was told it would receive an additional \$38 million (\$121 million total to the state and communities in Arizona) from the federal government to fund blight prevention in neighborhoods hit hard by multiple foreclosures and abandoned homes. Among other uses, this funding will assist families, seniors, veterans and homeless individuals across Arizona in our most impacted neighborhoods.

The Governor said: “Arizona has taken many steps to help citizens get through these tough times but there are still individuals and families out there who still need help and haven’t yet contacted us. Please help us do the best job we can to get the word out to families in distress by referring them to the helpline and other resources.”

A copy of the “Feeling the Economic Crunch” brochure is attached.

For more information about the Office of the Governor, please visit www.azgovernor.gov.